

DCFS Connections Autumn 2014

Care * Commit * Connect



DCFS Connections
September 2014

Danielle House-Barlow- Editor

Director's Note...from Cecile Blucker

Hard to believe – summer is almost over! When we consider the work we are doing with families now along with our planned waiver interventions our goal is to have an **IMPACT** in the lives of the children and families we serve. Our waiver interventions are designed to bolster our current practice resulting in better outcomes for the children and families served by our agency. To help with our messaging of the state's participation in the IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project, we have developed a tag line for our waiver project – I.M.P.A.C.T. which stands for Improving Meaningful Practice for Arkansas Children Together. This is what we are doing with our waiver interventions and those other associated initiatives. Think about it...

Structured Decision Making – improving our practice in our assessment of risk and safety **impacts** whether a child is removed from their home or if we are able to work more effectively with the family unit as a whole while the child remains in their home;

Differential Response –changing our approach from an accusatory approach to a strength based helping approach **impacts** those families both short and long term – removes the stigma often associated with being involved with the child welfare system;
Team Decision Making – early engagement of families and the inclusion of their support systems **impacts** the children and the family unit as families are empowered and have a voice in determining possible solutions in keeping their children safe;

C.A.N.S./F.A.S.T. – with these assessment tools, we will be able to better identify and prioritize the services needed by children and families which **impacts** not only their length of engagement with the system but also **impacts** their ability in either keeping their children safe and/or having their children returned home to them;

Nurturing Parent – this program will have a positive **impact** on the family as a whole as it will help with the development of appropriate parenting skills leading to healthier families;

Foster Parent Recruitment – having the resource families available in the removal counties will have a positive **impact** on the children as they will be able to attend their current schools, keep their relationships with their friends and families and will enhance reunification efforts.



Underlying all of these interventions/initiatives is the focus on the reduction of trauma on the child and the family along with the positive **impact** on a child's overall wellbeing and the development of healthier families in the state.

Through our **3 C's – Care, Commit, Connect** with the children and families we serve and our current and new interventions/initiatives that bolster practice – we are having an **IMPACT** in their lives.

Thanks to each of you for the difference you make and the **IMPACT** you have with the children and families we serve.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH – EVENTS AROUND THE STATE



This year **National Adoption Day is on Saturday, November 22, 2014.**

We always plan special events for November and A Place To Call Home will feature children weekly during October and November. The

Adoption Specialists have been asked to look at their waiting children and send the names of a child or children they would like to feature.

Please work with your staff to plan a special event in your area to celebrate adoptions. If you will send me the information about your events I will register them with the National Adoption Day organizers. We already have an account with them.

Your event doesn't have to be on that particular Saturday because November is National Adoption Month. Some ideas for celebration may include: special court day to finalize adoptions, receptions for waiting families and those families who have adopted, to include judges, AAL's, CASA, attorneys, agency staff, advocates and others, a special picnic, a balloon release, anything you may think of to honor adoptions our waiting children and families.

December 18, 2014

Celine Dion will host a CBS (**Channel 11**) holiday special spotlighting adoption.

The "**Loved Me Back to Life**" singer will perform during the 15th annual "**A Home for the Holidays**," along with **Ne-Yo, Chris Young** and others.

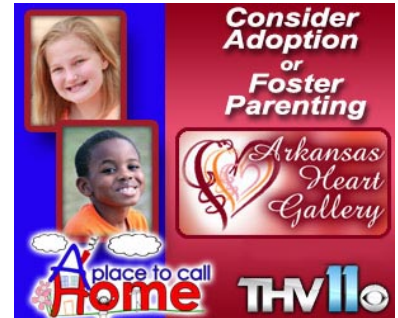
The special will introduce families and the children they adopted from foster care. Among them is Nicole and Fernando Capaccang, a Los Angeles couple inspired to act after seeing last year's program, and a young man who lived in 11 foster homes before a Washington woman adopted him.

There will also be a segment called "**Children Waiting**," drawing attention to kids currently living without permanent homes. According to the Department of Health & Human Services, there are about 400,000 children in foster care in the U.S.

Presenters of "**A Home for the Holidays with Celine Dion**" include the Children's Action Network and the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. The late Wendy's founder was himself adopted as a child and established the foundation in 1992.

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES IN ADOPTIONS

- ♥ An agreement has been signed with Praise radio AM 1250 and FM 102.5 (Cumulus) featuring Billy St. James and those recruitment activities started in July. He will interview five or six ministers, one of whom is Rev. Frank Stewart, author of the book The Father Deficiency – The Most Needed Vitamin in America. Our own Milton Graham will be one of the featured ministers. Billy's show is on from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and is a religious AA station. Our information will also appear on their website.
- ♥ Dawn Scott, Today's THV Channel 11, and her manager have asked if we would like to have weekly features of "A Place to Call Home" at no further cost to us. Emails were sent to all Adoption Supervisors and they seem to be in agreement. We will start with twice a month and see how that works. She would also like to have a once a month feature of a success story. <http://www.thv11.com/features/a-place-to-call-home/>
- ♥ The agreement has been signed for the digital marketing piece that Jeff Turnbow, Digital Sales and Marketing Manager with Gannett, Channel 11, presented and we have already received the first mark-up of that from Jeff. This is another recruitment tool we will be using to seek families for our waiting children.
- ♥ All of these endeavors include recruitment for foster homes. The link to the foster care website, as always, will be a part of our link on their website. Hopefully this will spark interest in both adoptions and foster care.



For more info contact **Marilyn Counts**, Adoptions Manager at marilyn.counts@dhs.arkansas.gov

A DCFS SUCCESS STORY

BY LARRY STRICKLEN

I have worked for DHS for 16 years. I have heard a lot of stories out in the field, but not many of them have been success stories. Last April however, I got to hear one that stuck with me.

I was at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro for a career fair, when a young man entered the auditorium and started asking around for Mr. Stricklen. He wanted to know if I was the one responsible for hiring case managers. I told him "Yes. We recruit and hire case managers." He then told me that they do great work, and that a case manager saved his life.

When he was fourteen years old, he had been beaten and abused both physically and sexually at home by his mother. He had spoken with a friend who had given him DHS's phone number to call. Once he finally worked up the courage to call, a case manager came by his house the next day. The case manager separated him from his mother, and talked to each of them. The case manager then left, but returned a few days later. The young man was instructed to gather up some clothes and a few of his things, and that they were leaving. He was then placed in a foster home with a very good set of foster parents. He then told me that now he is a junior at Arkansas State, majoring in biotechnology, and that none of this would have been possible if not for the DHS case manager who got him out of a bad situation and really did save his life. He wanted to say "thanks for hiring good people."

I was so moved by everything this young man had been through; I knew I had to share this story!



CONWAY ROTARY CLUB

Invites YOU to a Picnic!



Celebrate
Fall,
Y'all!

*In
Partnership
with the
Arkansas
DHS
Division of
Children and
Family
Services*

Antique John Deere Tractors & Hayrides

*Bounce House, Games & Fall Activities, Police Cars &
a Firetruck, Firemen, Picnic Lunch...and MORE!*



10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Con-L Ranch, Conway, AR

260 Friendship Road, Conway, AR 72032 (2 miles west of Lake Beaverfork off Hwy 25)

FUN SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

This summer Vera Lloyd provided creative and educational opportunities to keep the foster youth of Arkansas busy and engaged. Vera Lloyd is dedicated to broadening the life experiences of youth in foster care.

- With support from the Arkansas Arts Council, Arts in Education artist, Laura Botsford of Portland, Ark., led a workshop in poetry and illustration. Youth involved in the project worked on a book creating original poetry and art. The book will be bound and each will receive a copy that includes his/her work.
- Umoja “The Mo-man” Sumler of Little Rock presented a Poetry Out Loud workshop, teaching youth about literature and poetry and leading them in a poetry slam event.
- With funding support from the Dollar General Literacy Council, youth are participating in a summer book club with the goal of improving their reading levels. Books appropriate to their various reading levels about subjects of interest to teens were used to raise their interest in reading, with discussion about characters, plot, etc.
- Ten girls are enrolled in the University of Arkansas at Monticello’s summer day camp, where they participated in classes to improve their baking skills and a physical fitness dance class.
- Nine boys and girls are enrolled in the University of Arkansas on-line reading improvement program, with the goal of improving reading comprehension and literacy levels. Our school supervisor has worked with the youth for 9 weeks and is reporting encouraging progress in their reading speed and comprehensive.
- Vera Lloyd received a Community Garden Grant to build raised gardens, plant and harvest summer vegetables for use in the homes. All houses on campus got involved and the youth cared for the gardens and learned a lot about healthy food fresh from the garden. A fall garden is being prepared now.

ARKANSAN WINS SPECIAL OLYMPICS GOLD MEDAL



Abby was just four months old when she entered foster care due to neglect by her birth parents. She was placed into the foster home of Scott and Amanda Brewer and when her birth parents lost their parental rights, the Brewers knew they wanted to adopt Abby to be their daughter. Shortly after Abby’s adoption was completed the Brewer’s closed their home to foster care so that they could focus solely on raising Abby. After a few years they decided they wanted to reopen their home for foster care, but what they didn’t know was that

Abby’s birthmother was pregnant again with another daughter. Once the baby was born she was placed immediately from the hospital into the Brewer’s home and eventually they were able to adopt her as well.

Though Abby and her sister are delayed that doesn’t stop their parents from pushing them to do their personal best! Just this past month Abby won a Gold Medal in the National Special Olympics. It is in cases like this that we in DCFS can see that we really are making a difference in the life of a child!

FASD AWARENESS DAY - SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 9:09 AM

BY STEPHANIE STONE

FASD is an umbrella term referring to the diagnosable conditions associated with prenatal alcohol exposure, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (pFAS), and Neurobehavioral Disorder associated with Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (ND-PAE).



Developing babies have the same blood alcohol concentration as their mother, but they lack the ability to process or metabolize alcohol.

Alcohol exposure can cause brain damage, facial abnormalities, growth deficiencies, and hearing or vision impairments. It can also affect learning, behavior, sleep, social and cognitive skills, and mental health with lifelong implications. Babies never outgrow FASD.

On Tuesday September 9, 2014, at 9:09 a.m please join Division of Children and Family Services FASD Program as we promote awareness of the risks of drinking alcohol during 9 months of pregnancy! We challenge you to join us and the National organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome by utilizing social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to spread awareness on this day and time.

Additional information & resources can be found at: www.fasday.com and www.nofas.org.

SEBASTIAN CO. FOSTER CHILDREN ATTEND FERNCLIFF CAMP

BY PAULA LINDER



Thanks to the generosity of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith along with some donations from other Presbyterian Churches and Ferncliff Camp, 28 Sebastian County foster children attended the Ferncliff Presbyterian Camp outside of Little Rock on June 23rd-27th. There were siblings who are living separately that were reunited at camp. The kids arrived on Monday and were there until Friday. Rev. Phil Blackburn who accompanied the children said there was a special counselor who worked with the kids as well as a DHS case worker and things went very well.

Thanks to Harvest Time Church for supplying a bus to take the kids to Little Rock. Thanks also to Bobbie Newsom and Stephanie Cherry all the DHS staff who worked hard to make this wonderful opportunity happen for the foster children of Sebastian County!

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

— Henry Ford

STRIDES MADE IN PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE INITIATIVE

BY SALETHIA WEATHERSPOON

Arkansas' Permanency Roundtable Initiative has made huge strides in the past couple of months. During the month of July, our Permanency Specialist was invited to attend training in San Diego in which she attended a Training of Trainers conference. The conference was hosted by San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency.



During the month of August, Arkansas hosted trainings that allowed the Permanency Specialist to co-facilitate with Casey Foundation's trainer Ginger Pryor to train DCFS staff on information taught during the San Diego conference. August 14th Staff participated in the APR (Achieving Permanency through Roundtables aka Values training) training which gave staff members training on the importance achieving permanency for our youth in Foster Care. The August 25th training was a skills training which gave staff members insight on the importance of the role of each participant in the Permanency Roundtable. Staff members attending the trainings included Agency partners (CASA, Attorneys, and Mid-South field trainers), FSWs, Supervisors, Area coordinators, Area Directors, and Central Office employees.

DCFS Director Cecile Blucker began each training session with a welcome and overview of the day's agenda. We would like to thank her for her support.

ONE SIMPLE WISH FULFILLED FOR FOUR FOSTER CHILDREN

BY MIRANDA RAINES



The One Simple Wish Ultimate Wish Tour made a stop in Little Rock on July 21st, 2014 to feature 4 of Arkansas' youth who are awaiting adoption. The One Simple Wish foundation was started in 2008 to empower more people to support children who've been victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment in very simple yet meaningful ways. Children deserve happy childhoods. One Simple Wish creates them. From school supplies to toys to sporting equipment and lots more, each wish is as unique as the child who makes it. All wishes are under \$500 with most ranging



from \$10-\$100. The 4 Arkansas children that were granted wishes were Taylor K., Devin W., Treyson T., and Michael W. The Ultimate Wish van arrived around 3 PM at the Fellowship Bible Church where each of the 4 youth were interviewed and granted their wishes. Taylor hopes to become a veterinary one day so she was thrilled when she received her wish of a day pass to the Little Rock Zoo and a behind the scenes tour at the Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Eureka Springs. The refuge provides a lifetime refuge for abandoned, abused, and neglected "Big Cats" (lions, tigers, cougars, etc....). Each of the boys received similar wishes of gaming systems, games, or a Kindle Fire. Throughout the afternoon, DCFS staff and One Simple Wish staff were able to play games, visit, and learn more about the youths. Each one was interviewed separately and the interview will be featured on the Ultimate Wish Tour's website. <http://www.ultimawish.org/>



Lastly, the day was topped off by a game night celebration sponsored by the Hasbro Game Company. About 100 foster families, adoptive families, and children all enjoyed playing games and eating pizza donated by Hasbro and Larry's Pizza. Each family was able to take home a donated game. The whole day was filled with laughter and fun. Even our DCFS Director, Cecile Blucker, joined in the fun! She taught Michael a few tricks at pool table. And our Assistant Director, Beki Dunagan, learned from Taylor how to make rubber band bracelets. Thank you to everyone who made the day a success!



THE DILIGENT RECRUITMENT GRANT – ARKANSAS'S CREATING CONNECTIONS FOR CHILDREN (ARCCC) PROJECT

BY DANIELLE KIMBROUGH

The Diligent Recruitment Grant – Arkansas's Creating Connections for Children (ARCCC) Project is a comprehensive, multi-faceted and community-based diligent recruitment program based on Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family to Family model. It will combine technology with evidence-informed practices to recruit and support a pool of quality resource family homes in the highest need communities including Areas 1 (Northwest AR), 2 (Sebastian Co. area), 6 (Pulaski Co.), and 8 (Northeast AR). These four service areas comprise 55 percent of the youth in foster care statewide. The ARCCC Project will target recruitment for youth ages 12 and older as they remain in foster care longer than other age groups, suffer from increased instability, and are often separated from their siblings and communities which in turn creates more trauma. The implementation date is October 1, 2014.

I am happy to have joined the ARCCC team on August 4, 2014 as the Project Lead. Previously, I worked as a Family Service Worker in the field with the Division of Children and Family Services in Pulaski County (Area 6). While a Family Service Worker, I gained a wealth of knowledge and principles surrounding the Child Welfare System. It has always been my passion to work with at-risk populations of children and families. Prior to being a Family Service Worker, I worked as a Case Manager for United Cerebral Palsy, where I was privileged to have worked with individuals with disabilities, helping them to gain independence and to live a life with no limits. I have worked across multiple agencies in efforts to coordinate services for at-risk populations. I am housed in the Central Office in Little Rock, AR. My phone number is 501-682-6585; my email address is danielle.kimbrough@dhs.arkansas.gov.

The four service areas as mentioned before include Areas 1, 2, 6, and 8. There are four Community Engagement Specialists who are also a part of the ARCCC Project and are located in those four service areas. The Area 1 position is vacant at this time. Jessica Schooley is located in Area 2. Jessica's email address is jessica.schooley@dhs.arkansas.gov. Michelle Hood is located in Area 6. Michelle's phone number is 501-371-1198; her email address is michelle.hood@dhs.arkansas.gov. Hannah Roach is located in Area 8. Her phone number is 870-972-1732; her email address is hannah.roach@dhs.arkansas.gov. All of the Community Engagement Specialists are very excited about the ARCCC Project. They will work in the communities to build partnerships and recruit Resource Homes.

In line with the Family to Family model, we believe that it is everyone's responsibility to recruit. With that being said, everyone who is associated with DCFS/DHS should recruit Resource Families, not only Resource Workers but also Caseworkers, Investigators, Program Assistants, Resource Families, and others within DHS. The ARCCC Project Team will design Tool Kits to distribute to those who work for DCFS and those who are in partnership with DCFS, including volunteers to assist with recruitment.

The four key principles include for the Family to Family Model include:

1. A child's safety is paramount
2. Children belong in families
3. Families need strong communities
4. Public Child Welfare Systems need partnerships with the community and with other systems to achieve strong outcomes for children.

These principles are in line with the DCFS Practice Model and the ARCCC Project Team will use these principles to recruit quality Resource Homes for children.

DCFS WHO'S WHO AND WHO'S NEW!

BY DANIELLE BARLOW



Most of the time when a new employee is hired they are a new face to the office, but this issues Who's Who and Who's New featured person is a new employee to DCFS, but if you work in Central Office, the face is one you probably recognize from the evening janitorial crew...

Meet **Michelle Harris**, she is the new Administrative Specialist II in Mona Davis' unit and is a recent graduate of Remington College where she graduated with a 4.0 grade average! Michelle says "I worked part-time for D & B Janitorial here in the Donaghey building cleaning up at night right here on the 5th floor and now I'm proud to say I am a part of the Division of Children and Family Services team!"

Welcome aboard Michelle!

Here are a few fun facts about Michelle:

1. **DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:** October 4th, Little Rock AR
2. **THE LAST BOOK I READ:** The Cartel by Ashley JaQuavis
3. **MY FAVORITE QUOTE:** "As simple as that!"
4. **ON THE WEEKENDS YOU CAN FIND ME:** At home relaxing
5. **THE BEST ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED WAS:** Never give up
6. **FAVORITE JUNK FOOD:** Pizza, potato chips and cupcakes
7. **WHAT'S ALWAYS UN MY REFRIGERATOR:** Water and 2% milk
8. **IF I COULD DO IT OVER AGAIN:** I wouldn't change a thing!
9. **ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME:** I secretly want to be a comedian.
10. **FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** Riding in the back of my uncle's truck.
11. **ONE WORD TO SUM ME UP:** Loveable

THE ARKANSAS FATHERHOOD AND FAMILY INITIATIVE: F.E.E.L

Vision Statement: The Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative: FEEL promotes positive fatherhood engagement by enhancing literacy, job training skills, life skills, and the tools necessary to succeed in order to build capacity to do greater things within their family structure.



The Arkansas Fatherhood Coalition will be hosting a Fatherhood Rally and Fatherhood March on November 1, 2014; 11a.m.-2p.m. (Please see attached flyers for additional information). As a part of the Agency's collaboration with the Arkansas Head Start Program, this is a great resource to assist us as an Agency, in engaging the Fathers we serve every day with the challenges of fatherhood and help them understand the importance of meeting the health & safety needs of their children. This coalition will be providing continued resources to Fathers in the great State of Arkansas. There are also two links (Spanish & English) attached for the Arkansas Fatherhood Survey. This survey will enable the coalition to gather information to effectively serve the Fathers within the State. If you would like to order a T-shirt, the form is due along with your payment by September 15, 2014. T-shirts will be ready for pick-up at the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration office on October 1, 2014. T-shirts will also be available for purchase at the event. Thank you in advance for your support.

Fatherhood Survey Web link:


<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/arkansasfatherhood>

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/fatherhoodsurveyspanish>

Follow us on:

 Facebook: [facebook.com/arkansasfatherhood](https://www.facebook.com/arkansasfatherhood)

 Twitter: twitter.com/arfatherhood

 Instagram: [arfatherhood](https://www.instagram.com/arfatherhood)

"Arkansas in Support of Fathers"

Rally

Date: November 1, 2014

Time: 12:00 pm-2:00 pm

Location: Arkansas State Capitol
Grounds

(Guest Speaker, Free Bags, Door Prizes, and
Much More!)

The *Arkansas*
Fatherhood
Coalition Presents

Fatherhood
March
November 1,
2014, at 11:00 am
From Capitol and
Chester to the State
Capitol

For more information:

Please contact the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office at (501) 371-0740.
You may also contact Dedric Davis at (501) 366-6677 or Jackie Govan at (501) 831-1153.



AR Fatherhood and Family Initiative

T-Shirt Order Form



**ORDER
DEADLINE:**
SEPT. 12, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

SHORT SLEEVE			
Quantity	Size	Price	Total
	SMALL	\$10.00	
	MEDIUM	\$10.00	
	LARGE	\$10.00	
	X-LARGE	\$10.00	
	2x	\$12.00	
	3x	\$12.00	
	4x	\$12.00	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ARKANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION
MAIL PAYMENTS TO: Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative
 C/O: AHSA
 1400 WEST MARKHAM, STE 406
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
 For More Information, please call: 501-371-0740

C.H.R.I.S. ENHANCEMENTS AND UPDATES

BY NELLENA GARRISON

IV-E Waiver Enhancement Team Decision Making Implementation can now be captured in CHRIS as of Release 21.7 implemented on Thursday, July 31, 2014:

- Enhancements in Investigation and Case have been added to enable documentation of the Team Decision Making (TDM) Meeting for applicable Counties. **Additional information regarding TDM implementation Phase I will be provided in the future.**

Investigation Focus Toolbar

Path: Workload/Referral-Investigation/Investigate/TDM

- A new TDM Button has been added to the Investigation Focus Toolbar next to the Summary Button.



- The TDM Button is locked as the default and will become accessible for Investigations and Cases in Counties participating in the Team Decision Making Program. This button is available when “Yes” is selected for at least one child on the Health and Safety Assessment Safety Planning Tab for the first question regarding development of a Protection Plan, and the Date Protection Plan was put into place is the TDM Program implementation date or later.
- **Select Team Decision Making Meeting Dialog Box**
The TDM Button enables access to the Select Team Decision Making Meeting Dialog Box where a new Team Decision Making Meeting record is opened or an existing record accessed.
- **Team Decision Making Meeting Screen**
The Team Decision Making Meeting is documented on this new screen. Only a TDM Facilitator, TDM Supervisor, or TDM Staff in the TDM Unit Group have the ability to add, update, or delete (prior to approval) the Team Decision Making Meeting Screen.
The TDM Meeting Information captured includes the Meeting Information, Child(ren) Discussed, and Meeting Participants, and a narrative description of the Action Steps (e.g. Who, What, By When).
The Team Decision Making Meeting requires TDM Supervisor approval with the option to Deny. The TDM Facilitator may revise the Meeting information and resubmit an approval request. When approval is denied, an e-mail is sent to the Facilitator entering the Meeting and to the Supervisor denying the Meeting.

For information on Recent Release Enhancements, please go to CHRIS Net under Announcements and select the applicable Release Link:

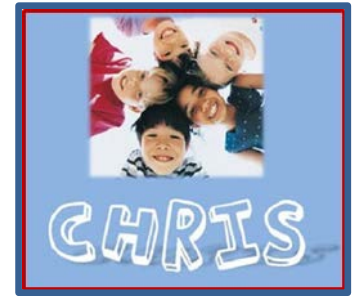
<https://dhssshare.arkansas.gov/DCFS/Policy/default.aspx>

Provider Direct Deposit for CHRIS Board Payments:

As of 09/03/14, there are **889** Providers that have signed up for Direct Deposit and entered their bank account information.

The following ‘Person’ type service providers can sign up to receive Direct Deposit for their CHRIS board payments:

- Adoptive Home
- Fictive Kin Foster Family Home
- Foster Family Home
- ILP Sponsor
- Pre-Adoptive Home
- Relative Foster Family Home
- Relative Guardianship



It's important that the Head of Household 1 or Head of Household 2 have their **Email Address** entered on the Provider Household Information tab in CHRIS. This will ensure that the Provider receives the email with information on how to sign up for Direct Deposit.

Below is the link to the **DCFS Provider Portal**. The '**Help**' tab contains several sub tabs with very useful information regarding the site/process. The Provider who wants to sign up must know the requested information when signing up with the 'New User Registration' link on the 'Home' tab. Instructions on what is needed are found in the Direct Deposit email that is sent to the Provider when they have an Email address in CHRIS.

DCFS Provider Portal Link:

<https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dcfs/Chrisppw/>

The Benefits of Choosing Direct Deposit:

- **Quick** - With Direct Deposit, your money is electronically transferred into your account and available to use the morning of the transfer date.
- **Secure** - There's no need to worry about lost, stolen or misplaced checks. Direct Deposit is more confidential than paper payments because fewer people are involved in the process. Another benefit is at most financial institutions deposits are insured to at least \$250,000.
- **Convenient** - Direct Deposit eliminates having to make deposits in person. If you are ill or away from home, your funds will still be automatically credited to your account in your absence.
- **Reliable** - You can be assured your money will be deposited to your account on time, correctly and confidentially.
- **Simple** - It's easy to get started and the registration process just takes a few minutes.

Upcoming Enhancements to Look Forward To:

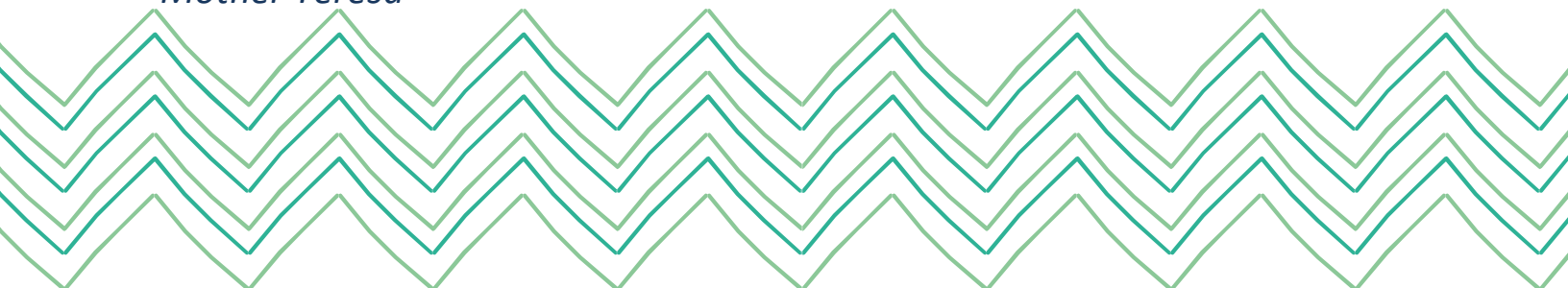
- **IV-E Waiver Enhancements:** CHRIS will be enhanced with Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength Assessment (CANS), Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST) and with a new Case Plan. These will replace the Family Strengths, Needs and Risk Assessment (FSNRA) and current Case Plan. Lots to come!
- Look for enhancements for Differential Response, Permanency Round Tables, and Team Decision Making to improve these areas within CHRIS with suggestions from staff that use these screens the most.

For Recent Demonstration Videos, please go to the following Link:

<https://dhsshare.arkansas.gov/DCFS/Policy/CHRIS%20Training%20Videos/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Remember your comments/suggestions are important to us, and we will consider all feedback when revising CHRIS in the future. Please send comments/suggestions by selecting **Ctrl+M** keys on the keyboard while in CHRIS. For example: What features do you like most? What features need improvement and in what way? Do you have any suggested enhancements?

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
- Mother Teresa



Websites and Resources



www.childwelfare.gov
www.fosterparentcollege.com/info/connections
www.midsouth.ualr.edu
www.americanhumane.org/protecting-children
www.arkansas.gov/reportARchildabuse
www.fosterarkansas.org

www.dhsshare.arkansas.gov/pages/default.aspx
www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly
www.nctsnet.org
www.fema.gov/kids
www.childrendefense.org
www.fosterclub.com
www.ppcwg.org/communications-overview.html
www.fosteringconnections.org
<http://drjohndegarmofostercare.weebly.com/index.html>

Follow us on....



Slow Cooker Chicken Taco Soup



Rated: ★★★★★

Submitted By: RaisinKane aka Patti

Photo By: momlovestocook

Prep Time: 15
Minutes
Cook Time: 7 Hours

Ready In: 7 Hours 15
Minutes
Servings: 8

"A hearty combination of beans, corn, tomatoes, and taco seasonings, slow cooked with shredded chicken. Top each bowl with Cheddar cheese, sour cream, and crushed tortilla chips. Made mostly of canned ingredients, this tasty soup lets the slow cooker do the work so you don't have to!"

INGREDIENTS:

1 onion, chopped	green chilies, undrained
1 (16 ounce) can chili beans	1 (1.25 ounce) package taco seasoning
1 (15 ounce) can black beans	3 whole skinless, boneless chicken breasts
1 (15 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained	shredded Cheddar cheese (optional)
1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce	sour cream (optional)
1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle beer	crushed tortilla chips (optional)
2 (10 ounce) cans diced tomatoes with	

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the onion, chili beans, black beans, corn, tomato sauce, beer, and diced tomatoes in a slow cooker. Add taco seasoning, and stir to blend. Lay chicken breasts on top of the mixture, pressing down slightly until just covered by the other ingredients. Set slow cooker for low heat, cover, and cook for 5 hours.
2. Remove chicken breasts from the soup, and allow to cool long enough to be handled. Stir the shredded chicken back into the soup, and continue cooking for 2 hours. Serve topped with shredded Cheddar cheese, a dollop of sour cream, and crushed tortilla chips, if desired.